The two years which have elapsed since the last meeting of the Legislature have been characterized in our domestic history by the peausful working of a will ordered government, almin-istered with filelity in all its branches. The sepirations, the energy and the thrift of the people have had free scope and have borns solid fruit. Those is gradifying evidence that the moral agencies of general education and religious teaching have displayed increased activity, and have been rewarded by a steadily widening influence. There is perceptible a growing individual prosperity, marked by new enterprises and other sure indications of soufficace in the future.

We have not escaped calamities, which have temporarily retarded our prosperity, yet we have enjoyed compensating blessings in a measure so large that that it should inspire us with feelings of professed graticals toward the Giver of all

You are assumbled agreeably to the provisions of the fundamental law as the sovereign power in the commonwealth, to enact such laws as in your judgment will promote intelligence, virtue and industry. It should be borne in mind that it is the State which protects individual rights of persons and property. and upon its lass and administration the prosperity and happimoss of the people chiefly depend, so far as they are dependent on government. The government of the United States touches the masses at very few points and concurns them but little as affecting their business affairs and every day life. It is to the State all must look for protection in life, liberty and property. In its laws and their due administration we are mainly inter ested. Therefore, it behaves all on whom rests the grave responsibility of legisla ing to bear in mind the vast interests confided to thum, and to bestow the greatest care upon them. There is danger of tro much legislation. Change is not always improvement. A law not the best with which those concerned are familiar is botter for society than frequent changes, in the hope of improving the law. That is praiseworthy conservatism which clings to what is until assured of something better by which to substitute it. Cortainty and stability in statutes are of the utmost importance to the well-being of all affected by them. No statute should be changed unless it is defective, and when amended it should be done earefully and plainly, so as to leave no doubt as to the legislative will. It sometimes happens that an ill-framed amendment makes doubtful or wholly defeats the real legislative purpose. A well-conssived statute may fail to effect the good designed and may do positive injury by not being properly framed and well expressed. Everything connected with the important business of legislation should be done deliberately and in order. Hasty and crude legislation is the bane of society. Hurried enactments near the close of the session are full of mischief and hazard much evil. Clerks without time to enroll correctly, and corolling committees without opportunity to verify, may make sad work of important legislation.

The grave matters of legislation should not be delayed to be rashed through in the expiring days of the session. Time should be afforded for every one engaged in the high function of legislation to leisurely, and with care commensurate with its solemn nature, perform his duty. The Constitution contemplates that the Executive shall have five days during the session to consider every bill passed by the two Houses. This is to afford time for examination, but in practice the Governor is called upon to not in the last few days of the session on a greater numher of bills than he can possibly read hastily in that time.

PINANCIAL. The reports of the Auditor of Public Accounts and State Treasurer, will give you a detailed statement of the financial transactions for the past two years. It is desirable that these reports should be published in advance of the meeting of the Legislature in order that the Governor might have time to earefully examine them and mature his recommendations. It is especially important that they should be in your hands at the beginning of the session for reasons that are apparent. But as the fiscal year does not end until the first day of January, it is impossible for these officers to submit their reports until you have been in session some weeks. I therefore, recommend that the fiscal year be changed to the 1st day of October, or such other time as will obviate the difficulty mentioned. The Auditor's reports shows the valuation of the property in

the State to be as follows: For 1883, realty 8 87,506,173 State tax \$ 316,887 31 80,158,751 The assessment for 1883 shows an increase of \$20,556,227 over

the valuation in 1879, when the land was lost assessed. When it is remembered that factories, many new railroads, and other properties are exempt from taxation, this increase indicates as acquisition of worlth that is with out parallel in the history of The following extract from the alvance sheets of the Treas-

urer's report for the years 1882 and 1833 will serve to show the facal year:

RECEIPTS.		
	,959 ,864 ,106	75
Tetal	,930	65
DISBURSEMENTS.		
	,441 ,499 ,989	90 90
Total \$2,06:	2,930	55
Chickasaw School Fund	5,709 0,876 7,646 3,139 1,061 0,173 2555 1000 5,000 7,150 390 0,000 7,293 8,837	13 46 10 23 95 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

For a proper un larstanding of the Sanness of the State it is necessary to deduct from the above such debts as are by their terms permanent and never to be paid, but form the basis for periodical interest payments, viz: Chickman School Fund_\$815,700 71 ... 544,061 23 \$1,359,770 94

\$1,615,061 12 Balance It is necessary also to deduct the Common School Fund, Old Account, for the reason that the constitutional provision under which it arose has been amended so as to accomplish the pur-pose for which it was raised in a different and

8797,414 66 of the Agricultural Land Scrip Fund, Bonda

\$570.264 68 I clust in addition the currency in the Treasury on account of Insurance Deposits, not inclu-

\$510,264 66 Jan. 1, 1884. 168,989 60 And it is found that the payable debt of the State

\$311,275 01 above the amount of cash in the Treasury is All will agree that taxation must not be increased. Mississippi must take no backward step in the policy of economy, re trenchment and reform so happily inaugurated in 1876. It is proper for the Legislature to understand, then, that appropriations cannot be made on the magnificent scale of 1882. The most rigid economy must prevail in all the departments of the Government. Public charities should be adequately supported, but ernamental improvements, additions and extensions should be postponed. On the 1st of January, 1882, there was a cash bal ance of \$545,106.28 in the Treasury. On the 1st day of January, 1884, this balance is reduced to \$168,989.60. It must also be remembered that during the years 1882 and 1883 the State had sources of revenue which have been exhausted and will not be available for the years 1884 and 1885. These facts emphasize the absolute necessity for the utmost economy and frugality in all departments consistent with the efficient administration of the Gevernment. The expenditures for 1883 amounted in the aggregate to \$836,499.90. I am convinced that if the appropri ations for the years 1883 and 1884 exceed \$700,000 annually

that it will result in creating a deficit, unless the rate of taxa-tion is increased, which should not be done. ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF TAXES. In the past much evil has resulted from frequent changes in the laws for the assessment and collection of taxes. An examination of the reports of the decisions of the Su-preme Court on many questions arising from these changes in the decade from 1870 to 1880, will disclose some of the evils resulting from them. It is particularly important that stability should characterize the legislation on this important subject in

which all are so much concerned. I trust no radical alteration

will be made. I have reason to believe that much of the land which is beught of the United States, continues to escape taxation, beeause the sheriff is not advised of the sale, and I therefore recommend that the Auditor of Public Accounts be required to procure of the Register of United States Land Office at stated periods, a list of such sales and of all homestead entries upon which final proof has been made, and transmit the same to the shall assess and collect the taxes thereon as in case of land left unassessed. If this suggestion is approved by the Legislature, an adequate provision should be made for the ecapensation of the extra force required to earry it into

General Wirt Adams, Revenue Agent, has been diligent in the discharge of the delicate and responsible duties of his office, and his labors have resulted in the collection of nearly all sums improperly withheld from the State and counties. His annual separt to the Auditor for the years 1882 and 1883 shows his col-lections to have been for the year 1882, \$29,134.98; for the

THE CLARION.

VOL. XLVII. JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1884.

show a total of \$100,303.34. LIQUIDATING LEVEE COMMISSIONERS.

the Liquidating Levee Commissioners reported that sufficient funds had been received to pay off and liquidate the entire levee debt, but that on March 19, 1883, they were enjoined by the Memphis and Vicksburg Railroad Company from paying out any of the money received from said company for taxes on bonds in the counties of Issaquena, Sharkey, Washington, Bolivar, Tunica, Quitman and Combowa, amounting to \$36,900 88, which suit is now pending in the Chancery Court of Hinds county.

Without the said sum thus enjoined they had not sufficient Department, 202; is the Law Department, 12. During the

Without the said sum thus enjoined they had not sufficient funds on the first Monday of January, 1883, to pay off the session of 1882-83, there were in the Literary Department, 14. The present session opened quired under the Act above alluded to. I have recently been perfectly been been as a perfect of the Law Department, 14. The present session opened in September last, and so far there are enrolled in the Literary Department of the institution is eminently practical, and I carnestly recommend that the appropriation of \$3000.00 for each of the years 1882, 1883, be continued for the quired under the Act above alluded to. I have recently been informed that sufficient funds are in the hands of the Commissioners to pay off the debt without the amount enjoined in their hands, and I now submit the matter to the Legislature for such further directions as they may see fit to make in the premises.

COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION.

September last, and so far there are enrylled in the Laterary Department, 236; in the Law Department, 9.

In June, 1883, the trustees opened the doors of the University to females and 12 matriculated the following session. There are now 22 in attendance, with the prospect of an increase in the number after January. Co-education has undergone exhaustive discussion, and has the endorsement of many old and it is in a prosperous condition, and is ably fulfilling its mission.

I cannot too highly commend the labors of this department, and I trust that the published report of the Commissioner will association of this State. Our girls must be educated, and if

LANDS. By act of Congress approved September 25th, 1850, the several States were granted all the swamp and overflowed lands this institution the Board of Trustees have submitted an exhaus. within their limits. Under this act Mississippi has received tive report of its condition, and to it you are referred for a deat various times, nearly 3,000,000 acres of land. During the tailed statement of its workings during the past three years in past two years the Commissioner of Swamp Lands has sold about 123,037 acres, for which about 230,759 45 has been paid into the treasury under the requirements of an act of the Legis lature approved February 24, 1877. This does not embrace the sale of lands claimed by the Pearl River Navigation and Improved February 24, 1878. The college has achieved remarkable success and lature approved February 24, 1877. This does not embrace the sale of lands claimed by the Pearl River Navigation and Improved February 25, 1877. The college has achieved remarkable success and promises to outstrip all competitors in its peculiar field of labor. From the very first session it has been in operation. This does not embrace the promises to outstrip all competitors in its peculiar field of labor. From the very first session it has been in operation. This does not embrace the promises to outstrip all competitors in its peculiar field of labor. From the very first session it has been in operation. This does not embrace the promises to outstrip all competitors in its peculiar field of labor. From the very first session it has been in operation. This does not embrace the promises to outstrip all competitors in its peculiar field of labor. From the very first session it has been in operation. The Legislature of 1882 appropriated for the completion of this Asylum.

To apply heating apparatus, purchase furniture, etc. etc. 15,270 00 promises to outstrip all competitors in its peculiar field of labor. From the very first session it has been in operation. The Legislature of 1882 appropriated for the completion of 1882 appropriated for the completion

Under an act of Congrest approved September 4, 1841, 500,000 acres of land were granted to Mississippi for purposes of laternal Improvement, and by act of the Legislature, approved March 4, 1878, the price of this land was fixed at 50 cents per decarious literatures of the State is free schools of a higher grade.

Third year, there were 517 students; 148 in college classes; 169 in preparatory department;

The large number of students in the preparatory departments both here and at Oxford suggests that the great want of the educational interests of the State is free schools of a higher grade.

Grant test from all sources.

On the 11th day of January, 1883, I directed John M. Smylie, Issq., to proceed to Washington City, and to carry into effect the requirements of an act of the Legislature, approved February 21, 1880, by presenting the claim of the State for lands and sudemnity. After verifying this claim by comparison with the indemnity. After verifying this claim by comparison with the lends are proventing the department has forwarded to me patents for about 109,000 acres, and has appointed a special agent to visit and extended to the State, \$4,500.

The lands are proventing the sale of bonds, authorized by an act approved March 7, 1882, the College has been supported for three years, and has acquired a property, which, according so a recent inventory made by Messrs. W. L. He inventory does not include recent purchases of cattle, horses, books, chemical apparatus, etc., amounting to 57. This inventory does not include recent purchases of cattle, horses, books, chemical apparatus, etc., amounting to 58,000.

The building was completed in September, 1882, and possession taken the October following. Since that date everything been surking to the entire satisfaction of the Board of it is very large, and under the regulations prescribed by the of the expenses.

Ccast. It has been decided by the Supreme Court of the United

held the office, his collections of revenue improperly withheld ties for the last two years.

This old established institution of learning continues to grow Unier an Act of the Legislature approved March 8, 1882, in usefulness and public favor. Its fame has gone abroad and

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

provement Company, hereinafter referred to. There remains now has as many students as any similar institution in the coun-

unsold of the lands patented to the State prior to June, 1882, try, with perhaps some few exceptions.

about 40,000 acres. The law requires this land to be sold for not less than 25 cents per acre, but deeming this price insufficient, I instructed the Commissioner in June, 1882, not to sell, and a sales have been made since that date.

Total try, with perhaps some few exceptions.

First year, there were 354 students; 87 in college classes; 267 in preparatory department. Second year, there were 304 students; 150 in college classes; 154 in preparatory department. Third year, there were 317 students; 148 in college classes;

Under an act of Control of Con

acra. During the past two years, the Commissioner of Swamp Lands has sold 455 60 acres of this land, and the Treasurer has received \$227 50 therefor. There now remains to be sold about 20,000 acres.

Grand to the policy and feasibility of their establishment your attention is respectfully invited. The College has received from the State in the aggregate \$205,000. With this sum and \$20,000 acres.

Grand total from all sources.

The total amount expended on account of this institution for balances on buildings, improvement of grounds, heating apparatus furniture, drainage, fencing, support, etc., for the year 1852, was

The Commissioner has expended upon this en ire work, while in Washington City, and in examining the lands for which in hour. There was paid out on account of student labor for the children, and it is to be hoped that the efforts of the Board of demnity is claimed, the sum of 8325.00. These expenditures years 1880-81 \$5,442.29; 1881-82 \$4,607.97; 1882-83 \$6,417,- Trustees will be yet successful in securing a number equal to have been made with my approval, as provided by an act ap 83. Total \$16,468.09. It will be seen that more labor was the full capacity of the buildings.

he offered for sale under my directions, and has in fact sold foremen under the professors in charge of the work. It expedites and the State has received \$13,431,12.

From a statement rendered me by the Comptroller of the Treasury of the two and three percent fonds, no part of which has been paid into the treasury since June 30, 1879, when it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that the content of the increasing demands upon the different Professors for agricultural information, President Lee correctly observes that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that The object of this institution onlists the tenderest experienced care and superintendence of Dr. Langley the Conder the experienced care and superintendence of Dr. Langley and his able corps of assistants the pupils have rapidly addites and facilitates the workings of the College." Speaking the charitable institutions of the country.

Institution on the different Professors for among the charitable institutions of the country.

Institution of this institution onlists the tenderest experienced care and superintendence of Dr. Langley the charitable corps of assistants the pupils have rapidly addites and facilitates the workings of the College." Speaking the charitable institutions of the country.

Institution of the increasing demands: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feature," and adds: "It shows that it is a most encouraging feat

Servetary of State, at six dollars per acre, about 34,000 acres; only 80 acres have been sold in the last two years. I respectfully renew the recommendation of my worthy predecessor that the price of these lands be reduced, and that they be transferred to the office of Commissioner of Swamp Lands for sale.

Since the admission of the State into the Union many islands have made their appearance from time to time along the Gulf your careful consideration.

I am pleased to receive all students artendance in 1882, 57 whites and 15 colored; in 1883, 66 whites and 15 colored.

The number of pupils centimes to increase. There were in 1882, 57 whites and 15 colored; in 1882, 57 whites and 15 colored.

The lam is also unnecessary, as the College is prepared to receive all students who will likely apply for admission. I am pleased to state that the price of these lands be reduced, and that they be transferred to the office of Commissioner of Swamp Lands for sale.

Since the admission of the State into the Union many islands have made their appearance from time to time along the Gulf your careful consideration.

ALCORN AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

Cast. It has been decided by the Supreme Court of the United S ates that lands of this description belong to the States, but a minimum price at public outery.

On the admission of Missis ppi into the Union one thirry sixth of the Missis ppi into the Union one of the Missis sixth of the Missis ppi into the Union one of the Miss

year 1883, \$29,772 61, and for the three years and a half he has Superintendent of Public Education, when published, for statis- taught cooking, ordinary housework, and plain sawing, cutting and fitting.

The institution was founded and is carefully supervised by

No. 2.

the American Missionary Society of New York, which has collected and disbursed a vast sum of money in the moral, religious and intellectual training of the colored youth of the South, and

Association of this department, and I trust that the published report of the Commissioner will in the third that the published report of the Commissioner will as way into the hands of our most thoughtful people. It has been the means of removing the false notions entertained about our soil, climate and resources, and the moral and religious status of our people, and has done much by publishing the truth to the world toward cemeating the growing friendship between the sections. It has secured many thrifty immigrants from the North and West, who introduce improved methods and new industries for the adoption of our people, and soon become themselves most efficient agents for the advertisement of the State. It has secured large investments of foreign capital in State lands, not for the purpose of speculation, as some suppose, but with the view, as shown by published correspondence, of developing and improving them.

The efficient Commissioner has been indefatigable in his efforts tatingly pronounce him thorough and efficient in all things connected with his responsible position. If he is sustained, as his carrying out the scheme of the Legislature, and I ashesis of believed will be brought to realize by actual enjoyment the benefits of immigration. I trust that in your deliberations upon this subject wite commissioner has been indefatigable in his efforts and as and labors deserve, I cherish the hope that very soon we will be brought to realize by actual enjoyment the benefits of immigration. I trust that in your deliberations upon this subject wite commissioner has been entertained to the same education would enable cach to fulfill destroy the same education would enable each to fulfill destroy the same education of the same education would enable each to fulfill destroy to the same education of the same education would enable each to fulfill destroy to the same education of the same education of the same education would enable each to fulfill destroy to the same education of the same education would enable each t

will be brought to realize by actual enjoyment the benefits of immigration. I trust that in your deliberations upon this subject, wise counsel and sober second thought may prevail, and that so far from undoing you will see proper to cordially adopt that so far from undoing you will see proper to cordially adopt and improve the work of the Legislature of 1882.

The University has a large and costly bunding that was erected for an action of the unprovided with suitable instruments. If it can be done without increasing the rate of the instruments. If it can be done without increasing the rate of the state of Mississippi, and for other purposes," approved that so far from undoing you will see proper to cordially adopt the purposes of a suitable equipment.

An act provided with suitable instruments. If it can be done without increasing the rate of taxation, I would recommend a reasonable appropriation for the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes," approved March, 8, 1882, I appointed on March, 8, 1882, I B. Rich, as commissioners to select a site, contract for and superwork is herewith submitted and commended to your favorable

> ..\$44,066 80 ...\$ 5,820 06

and also to receive the testimony of such witnesses as the Commissioner might produce. Under the requirements of regucommissioner might produce. Catter the requirements of regulations issued by the Department of the Interior, since that their care will be judiciously managed.

In the last three years the College has realised from the sale of the advantages of the institution. Circulars have been disproved by me and forwarded to Washington City. It is impossible to estimate with accuracy the amount of these claims, but their care will be judiciously managed.

In the last three years the College has realised from the sale of the advantages of the institution. Circulars have been distributed under the directions of the Board of Trustees setting forth the generous provision made by the State for the care and deducation of the blind, and so far a could be ascertained, near-last their care will be judiciously managed.

In the last three years the College has realised from the sale of the advantages of the institution. Circulars have been distributed under the directions of the Board of Trustees, and acting may be the singular reluctance of parents and others to avail themselves of the advantages of the institution. Circulars have been distributed under the directions of the Board of Trustees, and acting may be the singular reluctance of parents and others to avail themselves of the advantages of the institution. Circulars have been distributed under the directions of the Board of Trustees, and acting may be the singular reluctance of parents and others to avail themselves of the normal and the singular reluctance of parents and others to avail themselves of the singular reluctance of parents and others to avail themselves of the singular reluctance of parents and others to avail themselves of the singular reluctance of parents and others to avail themselves of the singular reluctance of parents and others to avail themselves of the singular reluctance of parents and others to avail themselves of the singular reluctance of parents and others to avail themselves of the singular reluctance of parents and others to avail themselves of ly all the families in which these blind children are have been writ-Department of the Interior, to perfect them will require time, I bor and expense.

The students show little or no indisposition to labor, and ten to, and yet out of an estimated number of one thousand bor and expense.

The students show little or no indisposition to labor, and blind children in the State only thirty-one have been so far re-

have been made with my approval, as previded by an act approved February 21st, 1889.

83. Total \$16,468.09. It will be seen that more labor was proved February 21st, 1889.

84. Total \$16,468.09. It will be seen that more labor was proved February 21st, 1889.

85. Total \$16,468.09. It will be seen that more labor was proved February 21st, 1889.

86. Total \$16,468.09. It will be seen that more labor was performed by students during the session of 1882-83 than during th

\$6,014.8) was received, it appears that about \$25,000 is now due the Sate. I am advised that this amount and all further sums accruing from this fund will be credited on the balance of a official source, and of a character to advance our material interclaim alleged to be due from the State of Mississippi to the ests. It is an official bureau of information. It shows the im- management of Mr. J. R. Dobyns, who continues in charge, the United States on account of a direct tax imposed upon the several States by not of Congress approved in 1861, which amounts to \$413,084, credited by \$62,000, which has no doubt accumulated to the State from different sources. The action of the Comptroller of the Treasury in insisting on the set-off, and retaining this fund, is in my opinion illegal. I recommend that you take such stops as will cause this money to be paid into the Sate Treasury. There has been made in the United States Land Office since 3 and 250,8 Homestead entries, embracing 450,000 acres, 530 final proofs and 1783 cash entries, embracing 450,000 acres, making a total of about 740,000 acres disposed of by the General Government.

There have been purchased and redeemed through the Auditor's office during the past two years 461,713 acres of land, heretofore sold for taxes, for which the State has received \$20,509,10, and the counties \$58,043,37. There remains unsold about 700,000 acres.

Of the Chickasaw School Lands there remains for sale by the Secretary of State, at six dollars per acre, about 34,000 acres in only 80 acres have been sold in the last two years. I respections of the some 200,000 acres and 1783 cash entries, embracing as to farming, care and growth of stock, equipment of farms, analysis of fertilizers, application of fertilizers, analysis of marker's tools for the use and instruction of pupils in these occupations. The pupils delight in the work and their progress as to farming, care and growth of stock, equipment of farms, analysis of fertilizers, analysis of marker's tools for the use and instruction of pupils in these occupations. The pupils delight in the work and their progress as to farming, care and growth of stock, equipment of farms, analysis of fertilizers, analysis of grasses, etc.

The Chemist here is also the State Chemist, and is doing a most valuable work in the analysis of fertilizers and in furnish formation of composition. As early as practicable I would recommend the most valuable work in the analysis of fertilizers, application of fertilizers, application of fertilizers, analysis of grasses, etc.

The Chemist here is also the State Chemist, and is doing a most valuable work in the analysis of fertilizers and in furnish formation of composition. As early as practicable I would recommend the most valuable work in the analysis of fertilizers and in furnish formation of these unfortunates, for besting the most valuable work in the analysis of fertilizer different College duties. The correspondents want information maker's tools for the use and instruction of pupils in these

desirable site was secured and necessary buildings erected, within

meeting of this body in this city was largely attended by distinguished educators of both sexes, and many able and interesting papers were read, which I would commend to the peruent and consideration of all members who are desirous of advancing the cause of education in general, and of perfecting the present system of free schools. The present school haw was discussed at length, and a number of amondments were proposed and endorsed by the Association, which a conference committee is directed to say before your body. It is proper to state that teachers are peculiarly qualified to pass judgment on the school law, and their recommendations with reference to it should be given corresponding weight.

3 The people of this State have assumed the obligation of at fording all educable children in the State, of both races and sexes, ample fieldlities for obtaining a common school education free of charge, and any laws you may cancel looking to the more effectual and less expensive discharge of this obligation ary, and for this reason I must refer you to the report of the season I must refer you to the report of the season I must refer you to the report of the manning ary, and for this reason I must refer you to the report of the season is further to the means are netured. In the house, the girls are

nished for the repeal of this section. I would further recommend that section 2 of the said act be so amended as to limit the expenditures for repairs in any one year to \$10,000, instead of \$25,000 as now fixed by law, and that the balance due on the lease, after deducing the sum thus expended, be paid into the treasury to the credit of the general fund. The sum of \$39,420,00 is under the contract with the Les ees, due numually until its expiration on let January, 1887. The condition and treatment of the convicts confined in the walls and under the surveilance of the Superintendent has been uniformly good. I regret to say, however, that reports have reached me of inhuman treatment of convicts on Railroads let to sub-leseces, and I am impressed with the truth of the reports. It is charged, and I fear with truth, that these convicts have been compelled in some instances, to work at night in the rain, and to s'cep without shelter. Under section S of an act approved March 9, 1882, it was made the duty of the members of the Boards of Supervisors to visit the convict camps in their several dis ricts at least once a month and make report of the same, which report was to be delivered by the clerk of the Board of Supervisors at the next term of the Circuit Court to the District Astorney, who was required to present it to the grand jury. The cost of this service, under Sec. 4 of the said set, his been about \$1000,00. The frequency of the complaints and the fact that no convictious have been had, would seem to indicate that this has been a useless expenditure of money, and that the scryica has been ineffectual. After giving the subject earnes consideration, I am of the opionion that this duty, so far at least as it relates to the inspection of State convict camps, should be imposed on the Superintendent of the Penitentiary. I do, therefore, recommend that he be required to visit each camp in the State at least once a month, and oftener if directed by the Governor, and be authorized, on discovering any violation of the law in respect to the treatment of convicts, to have the same forthwith returned to the Penitentiary at the expense of the Lessees. It is due the Lessees to say that no charge of ill treatment or cruelty has ever been made against them, but occurs with sub-lessees after the convicts pass into their custody. It is uscless to rely ou the paralles imposed by the act approved March 9, 1882, cutitled "an act to provide against the multrentment of convicts." An ample appropriation should be made to enable the Superintendent to discharge this duty. The present efficient Superintendent has frequently expressed a desire to inspect these convict camps, but there was no provision made by the last Legislature to defray his expenses, and he was without authority, in addition, to accomplish any good. It is needless to say that any legislation, whether in comformity with these recommendations or not, which will reform the abuses known to exist, will receive my hear y ap-

proval and co-operation.

Experience and observation have confirmed me in the opinion expressed in my Inaugural Address two years ago as to the policy of leasing the Penitentiary. COUNTY CONVICTS.

The law in relation to prisoners in county jails would seem to admit of no improvement, for every provision is made for the security and comfort of the prisoners, compatible with their condition, which the ingenuity of a humane and enlightened Logislature could devise. I invite your careful consideration of an act entitled "an act in relation to prisoners in a county jail," chapter 79, Code 1889, and an act amendatory thereof, entitled "an act providing for the discharge of prisoners in county jails, in certain cases, and for other purposes," approved March 9, 1882. It will be seen that no detail, however small, has escaped the attention of the Legislature, which is always swift to detect where it does not anticipate abuses, and to provide for their prevention and correction. I regret that, notwithstanding this exceeding caution, abuses are known to exist. Complaint is made that the prisoners are ever-worked and unfed; that after sentence they are burried off by the contractor without being afforded the opportunity which the law allows for the payment of fines and costs; that they are frequently detained after the expiration of the term of their confinement, or when the fine and costs have been paid, and that they are charged with medical attention and "wocked" for loss of time occasioned by sickness superinduced, in many cases, by bad treatment. The perpetration of these outrages with impunity emphasizes the fact that checks and safeguards are multiplied in vain where there is not a public sentiment to coerce officers in the performance of the duties with which they are charged. You may pile statute upon statute, and double the publies, and after all for the enforcement of the law you must rely upon this public sentiment. With more confidence in the moral and intellectual elevation of the people than in any laws you can frame, I would yet recommend the following amendments to existing statutes: Amend \$ 3157, Code 1880, by inserting in third line in lieu of the words "within twenty-four hours after amend \$ 3165, Code 1330, by striking out in the last line the word "no" so that it shall then read, "in such case, account shall be taken of the time before that spent in the custody of the contractor." In order to clear the subject of all doub, would amend § 3170, Code 1880, by inserting after the word 'wages" in fourth line the words, "on secount of time lost through illness or to defray expense of medical attention, or for any other cause except as herein specifical y provided." If the cont actor is thus made chargeable with medical attention and loss of time through sickness, his own interest would recommend humane (reatment. I further recommend that § 3158, Code 1880, be so amended as to require the Sheriff to deliver to the Chancery Clerk with duplicate receipt, etc., a memorandum of the exact date on which the prisoner shall be entitled to a discharge, and as to require him on that date, or at such other as the prisoner or any person for him shall pay to him the balance found to be due on time and costs, to visit the convict camp and see that the discharge is made. Failure to perform this duty should be made a misdemeanor and punished as such. One great evil of the laws in relation to county convicts arises

dication of the Sheriff or other officer upon an ex-parte examination, made frequently after the adjournment of the court. Some of the wrongs of this practice will at once appear to you. Under § 1597, Code 1880, no witness who does not appear in court, when called, or who is so much intoxicated as to be disqualified from testifying, is entitled to prove his attendance and obtain a certificate. By the same section witnesses in criminal cases are given five days after the adjournment of cart in which to prove their attendance. But at the expiration of the five days, the prisoner may have no opportunity to contest witnesses' right to prove attendance and obtain r certificate, because under \$3157. Code 1880, he is required to be delivered to the contracter within twenty four hours after sentence unless the fine and costs are paid. The enormity of the wrong is patent. The prisoner is required to pay the fine and costs within twenty four hours after sentence, notwithstanding it may be practically impossible to estimate the costs because of the witnesses' failure to prove attendance until five days after the adjournment of court. The amendments necessary to remedy these exils and inconsistencies will at once occur to the Legislature. The law should be repealed allowing five anys after the adjournment of court to prove attendance, and the Judge should be required to ascertain by his judgment fix the casts when he passes centence. Under the present rule the Judge may think he is imposing a light sentence, while in fact when the costs are afterwards ascertained it is found to be out of all proportion to the offense committed. When the costs are thus ascertained the liability of the contractor is fixed at the same time beyond controversy, and instead of the board of supervisors being forced to resort to a suit on his bond in case of default, the circuit clerk should, on proper application, be entitled to serve facias on this judgement for costs against the prisoner which is also a judgment

from the fact the costs when imposed as a part of the sentence

are not fixed by the judgment of the court, but left to the adju-

BOARD OF HEALTH. The Board of Health has rendered important service during the past two years in the preservation of the public health, and the prevention of the spread of contagious diseases. About 784 cases of small pox have been reported as occurring in the State in 1882 and 1883, in the following counties, to wit: De-Soto, Panola, Bolivar, Conhoma, Pike, Taliabatchie, Leflore, Holmes, Warren, Rankin, Washington, Copinh, Lowndes, Wilkinson, Lauderdale, Chilborne, Lincoln, Adams, Neshoba, Hinds, Mouroe, Madison, Tunica, Noxubee, Hancock, Grenada and Issaquena. At last reports the disease was confined to the counties of Grenada, Wilkinson, Clafborne and Warren.

The Board of Health assumed control and have had Inspec-

tors in the counties of DeSoto, Panels, Coahoms, Bolivar, Pike, Tallahatchie, Leffore, Holmes, Warren and Claiborne. Where an extensive out-break of the disease has occurred, it has been the rule to place an inspector in charge and to employ guards, both on foot and mounted, when necessary to secure the solation of cases. In other instances the Chief Health Officers of counties have given the matter attention. Disinfection has been employed and vaccine virus has been furnished in sufficient quantities to vaccina o not only those directly exposed, but also persons within a considerable radius of the disease. Upwards of 37,000 points of vaccine virus were procured and distributed, enough to have secured a thorough vaccination of the people. While the enforcement of the measures of prevention has been necessarily attended with considerable expense, I am of the opinion that but for them this loathsome disease would have spread over a considerable portion of our State, and been attended with not only great loss of life, but also large pecuniary

the barriers thrown around it, and the greater portions of the Mississippi-Yazoo Delta in our State would become infected. Quarantine was established against New Orleans and Pensacola in 1882, and three stations put in operation, on account of the occurrence of cases of yellow fever in the former city and the existence of an epidemic of the same disease in the latter.

A modified set of rules were enforced against New Orleans, as the danger was not regarded as very great, but the Board was in readiness to make them more rigid if an epidemic had occurred there, which there was reason to fear would be the case. It was only a system of inspection, and was no hardship or in-

losses. At one time in fact it was feared that it would overleap

convenience to public carriers passengers or shippers. The only station established against Pensacola was in Jackson county where there was danger of the introduction of the disease.

In 1883, on account of the discontinuance of the inspection service by the National Board of Health, it was thought pradent to establish an inspection station at Fort Adams, on the Mississippi river, and inspect all water crafts from below to be sure they were free from infection. The expense of this service was increased from the fact that outlits for the stations had to

be purchased. This property is on hand and could be used on With the exception of small-pox and a few cases of yellow fever in Jackson county, there has not existed any disease from which a serious epidemic was feared.

The following table will show the expenditures on different accounts for the years 1882 and 1883:

SHALL-POX. Out of special appropriation, approved Jan. 33, 1882. 5 3500 94
Out of general appropriation (Bells allowed, but unpaid, in hands of General) 607 90

(CONTINUED ON POURSE PAGE.)